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Aug 30th 2018

Via ECFS Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1

Dear FCC,

My current provider has been my provider for 20 years. When I've needed support, I know the people I will talk to and they know me. The service is efficient because it isn't a massive corporation. I started off with email and basic internet, but that grew to a website that helped launch my book, which took me to a new career. Through my changing needs, I was able to easily email or call the critical people and solve things very quickly.

I have never personally met the owner of my small provider. I wouldn't know him on the street, but I TRUST him after all the time together. Trust is a fundamentally difficult thing to build and is a key factor in the overall economy. If there is no trust in the people you do business with, you do less business. Not that trust will drop to zero with consolidation. It won't. But it drops and people get forced into options that we regularly complain about (as I feel everyone I know has complained about Comcast or AT&T, for instance, but they can't really change).

The idea of the land of opportunity is to make it easy for individuals with ideas and a work ethic to enter the marketplace, to carve out a way of life. Anti-competitive behaviors to keep the little guys from entering lessen that opportunity and lessen the trust.

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